22. Railway.—The financial prospects of the extension of the railway from Quilon to Trivandrum continue to be encouraging. In 1094 the traffic receipts from the entire Travancore branch were so far favourable as to yield a net revenue of Rs. 1,61,886 to the Government, after payment of the guaranteed interest on the capital raised for the construction of the Shencottah-Quilon line. The total outlay on the extension of the line from Quilon to Trivandrum up to the end of October 1919 was Rs. 51,05,770. Its further extension to the pier at Trivandrum has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 95,400. The construction of the Srimulavilasam Railway Satrom at Trivandrum, which has been sanctioned out of the private funds of His Highness the Maha Raja, is making progress.

23. Anchal.—The total number of hundies, inland and foreign, rose from 2,57,500 in 1093 to 2,72,224 in 1094 and their value from 31·54 lakhs to 35·36 lakhs. Motor Anchal service was introduced between Kottarakara and Kottayam.

24. Local Self-Government.—Since the close of the year, the Town Improvement Committees of Quilon, Kottayam and Parur have been placed under non-official Presidents, with the result that six municipal towns are now under non-official administration. The new Municipal Bill is ripe for promulgation. A Bill for the formation of Local Boards will be soon introduced in the Legislative Council. The Town Improvement Committees, as a whole, have steadily grown in prosperity during the last quinquennium. Their receipts rose from 1·75 lakhs in 1093 to 1·97 lakhs in 1094, their expenditure from 1·65 lakhs to 1·88 lakhs and their closing balance from 1·02 lakhs to 1·11 lakhs.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

25. Medical relief and Sanitation.—Sub-Assistant Surgeons in independent charge of medical institutions were authorised to perform *post mortem* examinations for medico-legal purposes. Sanction has been accorded to the entertainment of 13 additional midwives, so that every medical institution may have at least one midwife attached to it. A septic ward has been opened in the Women and Children's Hospital at Trivandrum. The establishment of a bacteriological laboratory at Trivandrum has been sanctioned. On the reported outbreak of plague at Mattancheri in Cochin, a set of detailed instructions was issued for preventing the disease being imported into Travancore, and these instructions were found to be of great practical use. Arrangements were made for stocking an adequate supply of cholera medicines in all important Sirkar medical institutions, so that they might be easily obtained by the officers of the Land Revenue Department for free distribution in the event of epidemic outbreaks. Orders were passed approving of the Ag. Darbar Physician's suggestion to introduce prophylactic vaccine treatment against cholera as an experimental measure. An Executive Engineer has been deputed to undertake the necessary investigations in connection with a scheme for the supply of water for the town of Trivandrum and action will be taken by the Government on receipt of his reply. The Department of Ayurveda is becoming increasingly popular, and the various facilities afforded in both the Dispensary and the Pharmacy at Trivandrum are being adequately availed of by the public.

EDUCATION.

26. Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions rose from 2,828 in 1093 to 2,845 in 1094, but their strength fell from 3,75,448 to 3,65,868, showing a decrease of 9,580 pupils. This decrease was almost wholly in the strength of the vernacular schools, there being an increase of 134 pupils in the colleges and 2,497 pupils in the English schools. The decrease is attributed to the prevailing economic distress, which has adversely affected the poorer strata of society from which pupils to the vernacular schools are drawn. While aided schools increased from 1,394 to 1,621 and their strength from 1,35,697 to 1,49,865, the number of unaided schools and the strength in them showed a marked fall, from 346 and 24,424 to 125 and 10,428 respectively. The number of unrecognised schools, on the other hand, in which the education imparted does not approximate to any fixed standard in point

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